

**JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND
COLLEGE OF INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Mosier Fellow Project Summary

Title of Project: *Strengthening the Safety Net: Health Education for an Alternative High School*

Location of Project: Waynesboro Public Schools: Phoenix Alternative Education Program

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ABSTRACT

According to the Centers for Disease Control's Coordinated School Health Education Program, education and health are interdependent systems (CDC, 2002). Those individuals concerned with the education of children must be concerned with the health of children. The common denominator for successful school health programs is a collaborative partnership (Wyatt & Novak, 2000). This project, *Strengthening the Safety Net: Health Education for an Alternative High School*, connects the mission of the James Madison University Department of Nursing with the mission of the Phoenix Alternative School in Waynesboro, VA. This creative and collaborative project will involve the development of a web-based health curriculum aimed at improving the health outcomes of students at the Phoenix Alternative School. Additional benefits of the program will be the potential to increase access to healthcare for uninsured adolescents through Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) and to provide service learning and educational opportunities for senior nursing students at James Madison University. The evaluation of the project will include satisfaction surveys and feedback from nursing students, teachers, and alternative school students. The project has potential to be replicated in other alternative schools in surrounding counties.